in India receive foreign contribution every year. Keeping in view the voluminous work involved in the collection of data, it is not feasible to furnish the required information. The receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution by the organisations is being monitored and audited statement of accounts are obtained from the organisations for close scrutiny.

Policies adopted by the National Wasteland Development Board

1370. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature of strategies and policies adopted by the National Wasteland Development Board to increase tree rollers green cover on Wastelands and also to promote fuelwood and fodder;

(b) what is the constitution of this Board; and

(c) what is the amount that has been placed at the disposal of this Board during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A copy of the Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board is placed on the Table of the House as Statement-I.

(b) The present Constitution of the Board is given at Statement-II.

(c) An amount of Rs. 52.33 crores has been placed at the disposal of the Board for the current financial year.

Statement-I

Action Plan

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board and accepted by the State/U.T. Governments for implementation has the following key elements:—

1. *Identification of Wastelands*:

Each State/U.T. Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area, revenue|common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. *People's Involvement*:

This will be ensured by the following measures:—

(a) *Decentralised Nurseries*: People's nurseries i.e. kisans. schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies, etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) *Farm Forestry*: Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolved.

(c) *Tree Growers' Cooperatives*: Tree Growers' Cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.

(d) *Voluntary Agencies*: The grass-roots agencies, Mahila Mandals, Youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.

(e) *Tree Pattas*: Strips of land along roads. rails, canals, etc., and other degraded land sould be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on such lands.

3. *Nodal Agency*:

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

4. *Seed*:

The States/U.Ts. have been requested to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder, grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

5. *Leasing of Lands*:

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of forest and non-forest wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

6. *Forest Based Industries* must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on westelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

7. *Urban Fuelwood and Green Belts*:

The States/U.Ts. have been requested to ensure that towns and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

8. *Degraded Forest Areas*:

States have been requested to identify degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. *Forest Development Corporations*:

Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Government for raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

10. *Government Departments*:

Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. *Media and Communication*:

A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio-visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. *Monitoring and Evaluation*:

The State U.T. Governments should evolve appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.

Statement-II

Composition of the National Wastelands Development Board

Chairman

1. Dr. Kamla Chowdhry

Members

2. Prof. M. G. K. Menon.
Member, Planning Commission

3. Chairman,
Advisory Board on Energy

4. Shri Anand Singh,
Member of Parliament

5. Mrs. Phulrenu Guha,
Member of Parliament

6. Prof. B. Ramachandra Rao,
Member of Parliament

7. Shri R. K. Kaul.
Chairman,
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

8. Dr. V. Kurien,
Chairman,
National Dairy Development Board.

9. Dr. B. V. Parameswara Rao.
Secretary.
Bhagavatulla Charitable Trust

10. Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt,
Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal

11. Secretary (Expenditure).

12. Secretary (Rural Development)

13. Secretary (Agricultural Research & Education) and D.G., I.C.A.R.

14. Secretary (Environment & Forests)

15. Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation)

16. Special Secretary (Forests & Wildlife) and Inspector General of Forests.

Member-Secretary

17. Member Secretary, National Wastelands Development Board

Laws Relating to Development of wastelands

1371. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the laws relating to the development of wastelands are almost out-dated and there are major constraints in the afforestation and development activities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the effective and expeditious development of wastelands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Laws relating to development of wastelands and afforestation need to be reviewed, in the context of the plan of action for wasteland development, especially keeping in mind the avowed objective of increasing people's involvement in the programme. The major constraints relate to the effective coordination of the activities of all departments and agencies involved in various aspects of the wastelands development programme, and the facilitation of action by voluntary agencies and the people.

(b) The Government of India have set up a National Wastelands Development Board to suggest policies and strategies for development of wastelands. A copy of the Action Plan drawn by the National Wastelands Development Board is placed on the Table of the House at Statement-I. (*See* below) In addition there are a number of schemes supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which aim at wastelands development. The names of the important schemes are given at Statement-II (*See* below)

Efforts at securing the coordination and facilitation referred to in answer to Part (a) are under way.

Statement-I

Action Plan

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1. *Identification of Wastelands:*

Each State/U.T. Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area. revenue/common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. *People's Involvement:*

This will be ensured by the following measures:—

(a) *Decentralised Nurseries:* People's nurseries *i.e.* kisans, schools, women, youth groups. voluntary agencies, etc.. will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.